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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

19 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Proposal for a National Intelligence Estimate Regarding the Situation in the Union of South Africa

1. An NIE on the Union of South Africa was projected in the Program of Estimates for the Remainder of 1952, circulated to the IAC on 5 May 1952. This would be the first NIE on this subject.
2. South Africa has entered a period of political tension and rising racial hostility. There is extreme bitterness between Nationalist Government supporters (almost wholly whites of Dutch descent) and the opposition groups (mostly whites of British descent). Civil War between the two factions has been widely predicted. The antagonism of the non-European population toward those of European descent has been greatly stimulated by the racial policies of the present government. Extensive inter-racial strife is regarded as ultimately certain by numerous qualified observers.
3. Disorders of any magnitude would have a direct adverse effect on US interests. Disorders would hamper and possibly halt production and delivery to ports of strategic materials. Disorders would almost certainly interfere with South Africa's contribution to the defense of the Middle East in event of war. Developments in South Africa will almost certainly affect racial relations and political movements elsewhere, particularly in colonial Africa. The Board of National Estimates therefore believes that the NIE should cover both internal developments in South Africa and their effects in other areas.
4. In the opinion of the Board of National Estimates the NIE should be open-ended as to the span of time in which developments would be estimated. The target date for completion of the estimate should be about 1 September.

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5. Recommended Action: That the IAC approve initiation of the following estimate and so notify the undersigned by telephone by close of business Wednesday, 21 May

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NIE-\_\_\_: PROBABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNION  
OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Executive Secretary

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